

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A method for screening a compound to determine whether the compound modulates immune cell signaling, the method comprising
contacting an immune cell with a compound that alters binding between a PDZ protein and a PDZ ligand protein (PL protein) in the cell; and
determining whether the PDZ protein and/or the PL protein moves into or out of lipid rafts in the plasma membrane of the immune cell, wherein modulation of the movement into or out of lipid rafts indicates the compound modulates immune cell signaling.

~~identifying a compound that modulates interaction between a the PDZ protein and a PDZ ligand protein (a PL protein.), wherein the PDZ protein and the PL protein are proteins which in an immune cell can interact with one another to affect the composition and/or distribution of lipid rafts in the immune cell.~~

2. **(currently amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~identifying comprises the~~ compound that alters binding is identified by

(a) contacting a PDZ domain polypeptide that comprises at least a partial sequence of the PDZ protein and a PL domain polypeptide that comprises at least a partial sequence of the PL protein in the presence of the compound; and

(b) determining whether there is a statistically significant difference in the amount of complex formed between the PDZ domain polypeptide and the PL domain polypeptide in the presence of the compound as compared to the amount of the complex formed in the absence of the compound, a statistically significant difference being an indication that the compound alters binding is a modulator of immune cell signaling.

3. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the PDZ protein is selected from the group consisting of hDlg, SHANK1, SHANK3, EBP-50, CASK, KIAA0807, TIP1, PSD-95, Pick1, CNK, GRIP and DVL-2.

4. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the PL protein is selected from the group consisting of PAG, LPAP, ITK, DNAM-1, Shroom, PTEN, BLR-1, fyn and Na⁺/Pi transporter.

5. **(original)** The method of claim 1, wherein

- (a) the PDZ protein is SHANK1 or SHANK3 and the PL protein is PAG, LPAP, ITK, DNAM-1, Shroom, PTEN, BLR-1 or fyn;
- (b) the PDZ protein is TIP1 and the PL protein is LPAP or PAG;
- (c) the PDZ protein is KIAA0807 and the PL protein is PAG or LPAP;
- (d) the PDZ protein is EBP-50 and the PL is PAG or LPAP or BLR-1; or
- (e) the PDZ protein is SHANK3 or EBP-50 and the PL protein is Na⁺/Pi transporter.

6-36 (cancelled)

37. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the determination of movement into and out of lipid rafts includes isolating lipid rafts by density gradient centrifugation.

38. **(New)** The method of claim 37, wherein the determining step is performed before and after addition of the compound.

39. **(New)** The method of claim 1, further comprising identifying whether the compound modulates activation of an immune cell.

40. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation is inhibition.

Appl. No. 10/080,273

PATENT

Amdt. dated May 19, 2006

Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2006

41. **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the immune cell is a T-cell, a B-cell or a monocyte/macrophage.